UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/23 (Part V)
9 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Item 18 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1992)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammad Najdat SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic)

CHAPTER IX

EAST TIMOR, GIBRALTAR, NEW CALEDONIA, WESTERN SAHARA

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
A.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
B.	CONSIDERATION BY AND DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE	5 - 30	3
	1. East Timor	5 - 11	3
	2. Gibraltar	12 - 16	5

* A/47/150.

** This document contains chapter IX of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/47/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/47/23 (Parts II-IV and VI-VII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

92-43006 3424g (E) 240992

280992

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
3. New Caledonia	17 - 26	6
4. Western Sahara	27 - 30	7
C. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE	31	7
Draft resolution: Question of New Caledonia	31	7

A. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 1398th meeting, on 5 February 1992, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1775), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the questions of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to allocate them for consideration in its plenary meetings.

2. The present chapter contains an account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the above-mentioned Territories (see sect. B), as well as a recommendation on the question of New Caledonia to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (see sect. C).

3. In its consideration of the items, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 46/67 and 46/69 of 11 December 1991 and decisions 46/402 of 20 September 1991 and 46/420 of 11 December 1991 related to the items, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

4. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, the delegation of Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor.

B. CONSIDERATION BY AND DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. East Timor

5. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 1403rd to 1406th meetings between 22 and 28 July 1992.

6. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1115), as well as a communication received from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1126).

7. At its 1403rd, 1404th and 1406th meetings, on 22, 27 and 28 July, respectively, and following statements by the representative of Indonesia (A/AC.109/PV.1403, 1404 and 1406), the Special Committee granted the requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated below:

Petitioners	Meetings
Mr. José Ramos-Horta on behalf of Mr. Xanana Gusmao of the National Council of Maubere Resistance	1404th
Ms. Victoria Forbes-Adam on behalf of Amnesty International	1404th

Petitioners	Meetings
Mr. Liem Soei Liong on behalf of Indonesia Human Rights Campaign (TAPOL)	1404th
Mr. Douglas McGregor on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee	1404th
Mr. Charles A. Scheiner East Timor Action Network - U.S.A.	1404th
Ms. Sidney Jones Asia Watch	1404th
Mr. Kan Akatani Free East Timor Japan Coalition/Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace	1404th
Mr. Richard Koch on behalf of Komitee Indonesia/Netherlands East Timor Working Group	1404th
Ms. Vanessa Ramos on behalf of American Association of Jurists	1404th
Mr. Russell Rollason Australian Council for Overseas Aid	1404th
Mr. Roger S. Clark International Platform of Jurists for East Timor	1405th
Mr. Alex Robinson on behalf of The British Coalition for East Timor/East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign	1405th
Ms. Eleanor Hoffman Westchester People's Action Coalition	1405th
Ms. Li-lien Gibbons East Timor Alert Network	1405th
Ms. Amy Goodman Journalist	1405th
Mr. Allan Nairn Journalist	1405th
Mr. João Rui Gaspar de Almeida Member of Parliament (Portugal) Socialist Party	1405th
Mr. Guido Orlando de Freitas Rodrigues Member of Parliament (Portugal) Social Democratic Party	1405th
Mr. Miguel Urbano Tavares Rodrigues Member of Parliament (Portugal) Communist Party	1405th

Petitioners	Meetings
Mr. Thomas Mehady on behalf of Pax Christi International	1405th
Mr. Vicente da Silva Guterres União Democratica Timorense (UDT)	1405th
Mr. José Luis Guterres Frente Revolucionaria de Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN)	1406th
Mr. Ken Simons on behalf of War Resisters' International	1406th

8. At the 1404th meeting, on 27 July, the representative of Indonesia made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1404) and the representative of Tunisia made a statement on a point of order (A/AC.109/PV.1404).

9. At the 1406th meeting, on 28 July, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Vanuatu had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Portugal, as the administering Power, and by the representative of Indonesia (A/AC.109/PV.1406).

Decision of the Special Committee

11. At its 1406th meeting, on 28 July 1992, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, without objection, to continue consideration of the item at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-seventh session.

2. Gibraltar

12. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 1406th meeting, on 28 July 1992.

13. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1116).

14. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

15. At the same meeting, with the Committee's consent, the Honourable Joe Bossano, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1406). The representative of Spain made a statement (A/AC.109/P.1406).

Decision of the Special Committee

16. At its 1406th meeting, on 28 July 1992, the Special Committee decided, without objection, to continue its consideration of the item at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-seventh session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Fourth Committee, to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

3. New Caledonia

17. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 1403rd and 1406th to 1409th meetings, between 22 and 30 July 1992.

18. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1120).

19. At its 1403rd and 1406th meetings, on 22 and 28 July, respectively, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Ms. Deborah Robinson; Mr. Yuan Céléné Uregei, Congrès populaire kanak; Mr. Rock Wamytan, Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS); and Mr. Paul Robel, Commission de'enquête indépendante sur la situation actuelle en Nouvelle Calédonie. At the 1406th meeting, on 28 July, statements were made by Mr. Robel and Mr. Uregei (A/AC.109/PV.1406); at the 1407th meeting, on the same day, by Ms. Robinson (A/AC.109/PV.1407); and at the 1408th meeting, on 29 July, by Mr. Wamytan (A/AC.109/PV.1408).

20. At the 1406th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of the Solomon Islands had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

21. At the 1408th meeting, on 29 July, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/L.1787).

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the Solomon Islands made a statement on behalf also of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu (A/AC.109/PV.1408).

23. At the 1409th meeting, on 30 July, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement in the course of which he introduced, on behalf also of Fiji, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1787 (A/AC.109/PV.1409).

24. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1787 without a vote.

25. On 6 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1133) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France for the attention of his Government.

Decision of the Special Committee

26. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1409th meeting (see para. 24) is reproduced in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

4. Western Sahara

27. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 1403rd, 1407th and 1408th meetings, on 22, 28 and 29 July 1992, respectively.

28. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1125).

29. At its 1403rd meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Madjid Abdullah of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). Mr. Mouloud Said, on behalf of Frente POLISARIO, made a statement at the 1407th meeting, on 28 July (A/AC.109/PV.1407).

Decision of the Special Committee

30. At its 1408th meeting on 29 July 1992, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, without objection, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-seventh session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Fourth Committee, to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

Draft resolution: Question of New Caledonia

31. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1398th and 1407th meetings on 5 February and 28 July 1992, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia, 1/

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including in the areas of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of New Caledonia's act of self-determination,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia;

2. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

3. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians;

4. Welcomes recent and foreshadowed measures to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields;

5. Also welcomes the call by the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement, at its meeting in Paris in October 1991, for greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

6. Commends the decision to establish a Melanesian cultural centre as a contribution to preserving the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

7. Takes note of the recent positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zoneco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

8. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

9. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.